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NOTES.

THE LAW SCHOOL—THE ORDER OF THE COIF.—On May 16, 1912, four members of the Class of 1912 were authorized by the National Secretary of The Order of the Coif to formally organize a chapter of that society in the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

The Order of the Coif is an honorary legal society. Its purpose as expressed in its constitution is "To foster a spirit of careful study and to mark in a fitting manner those who have attained a high grade of scholarship." With this aim in view, only those members of the graduating class of law schools where it exists, who attain high scholastic standing, are eligible for election to membership in the respective chapters of The Order of the Coif.

The national organization was originally founded as Theta Kappa Nu, but as it began to grow, it was thought desirable to adopt a name which would differentiate it from Greek letter fraternities, and which would also indicate its legal character; and for that reason "The Order of the Coif" was selected,—a name famous in English

legal history. The English Order of the Coif was composed of the sergeants-at-law to whom constant reference is made in the law reports.

The American order has now twelve chapters, as follows: Northwestern, Chicago, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Illinois, Iowa, Leland Stanford, Western Reserve, Virginia, and the University of Pennsylvania. Its badge is a key, similar in general shape to the Phi Beta Kappa key, but with the corners clipped, bearing upon its face a head, showing the wig with the symbolic coif. The original coif was a hood of white lawn; but after wigs came into fashion, completely covering the coif, a piece of white lawn on the top of the wig represented the coif.

The local chapter of the order has not yet been formally organized; but its organization will be perfected very shortly. Graduates of the Law School who would have been eligible to membership had the society existed at the date of their graduation, are eligible to election as members of the local chapter, as are also the members of the Faculty of the Law School.

The charter members of the local chapter are William A. Schnader, Frederick Lyman Ballard, Everett H. Brown, Jr., and L. Pearson Scott.

ADOPTION—EFFECT ON INHERITANCE.—The laws of Vermont¹ provide that, on an adoption, the same rights, duties, and obligations and the same rights of inheritance shall exist between the parties as though the person adopted had been the legitimate child of the adoptive parent, except that the person so adopted shall not be capable of taking property expressly limited to the heirs of the body of the adoptive parent. The question arose, in a recent case,² whether such adoption establishes the relationship of parent and child with all the consequences of that relationship, including the right of inheritance from the adoptive parent by the issue of the adopted child. And the court held that it did, interpreting the statute according to the meaning of the term adoption in the civil law.

The doctrine of adoption was unknown to the Common Law of England, and in this country in states whose jurisprudence is based exclusively on that system.³ It has, however, been recognized by the civil law from the earliest days of its existence, and on the provisions of that law, the statutes adjusted in the different states of the Union have been founded. By the civil law before the time of Justinian, the effect of adoption was to place the person adopted in the same position he would have held had he been born a son of the

¹ Rev. Laws of Vermont 1880, Secs. 2536-2541.

² *Batchelder v. Walworth*, 82 Atl. 7 (Vt. 1912).

³ *Ross v. Ross*, 129 Mass. 243 (1880), which gives a historical sketch of the law; *Morrison v. Sessions*, 70 Mich. 297 (1888).